

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 13567 021832Z

21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-12 INR-11

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 DRC-01 /169 W

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R 021625Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7244

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 5519

UNCLAS ROME 13567

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: FIAT TALKS BREAK DOWN

REF: ROME 12555

1. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FIAT MANAGEMENT AND THREE METAL WORKERS UNIONS BROKE DOWN THIS AFTERNOON. NO FURTHER TALKS ARE SCHEDULED AT PRESENT.

2. BREAKDOWN OCCURRED OVER ISSUE OF FIAT'S NEED TO REDUCE AUTO PRODUCTION BY AT LEAST 200,000 UNITS. UNIONS INSISTED THAT PRODUCTION CUT BACK SHOULD BE MADE WITHOUT RESORT TO WAGE INTEGRATING FUND, I.E., WITHOUT RESULTING IN ANY LOSS OF INCOME FOR ANY FIAT WORKERS. IN ADDITION, UNIONS INSISTED ON DISCUSSING OVERALL FIAT POLICY RATHER THAN DEALING WITH RESTRICTED ISSUE OF PRODUCTION CUT BACKS.

2. MANAGEMENT PROPOSED THE SHUT DOWN OF PRODUCTION FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS BY PLACING WORKERS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ROME 13567 021832Z

ON PAID LEAVE IN LIEU OF SOME 25 PAID HOLIDAYS WHICH ITALIAN

WORKERS RECEIVE ANNUALLY. ALTERNATIVELY, MANAGEMENT PROPOSED THAT WORKERS COULD EARN BACK PAID HOLIDAYS THROUGH OVERTIME. UNION REJECTED MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS PRIMARILY BECAUSE MANAGEMENT WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS CORPORATE INVESTMENTS, ETC. UNION SPOKESMAN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "RIGIDITY OF MANAGEMENT POSITION LEAVES NO ROOM FOR DISCUSSIONS."

3. COMMENT: BREAKDOWN OF TALKS DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR SERIES OF LABOR/MANAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE LOOMING IN MANY INDUSTRIES. FIAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PACE SETTER IN ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.BEAUDRY

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